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Message Text

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51
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SSC-01 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 CIEP-01 /055 W
---------- 026622
R 241635Z DEC 74
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5281

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINR, CA
SUBJECT: JOHN HALSTEAD TO BE DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

REF: OTTAWA 3949

1. EXTAFF HAS ANNOUNCED APPOINTMENT OF JOHN HALSTEAD, WHO HAD BEEN ACTING UNDERSECRETARY DURING ILLNESS OF E.A. RITCHIE AND PRIOR TO APPOINTMENT OF BASIL ROBINSON (REFTEL) AS DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. THIS POSITION HAD BEEN VACANT FOR FOUR YEARS. LAST INCUMBENT WAS ROBINSON HIMSELF DURING TENURE OF MARCEL CADIEUX, NOW IN WASHINGTON, AS UNDERSECRETARY.

2. HALSTEAD'S APPOINTMENT IS PROBABLY ATTEMPT BY ROBINSON TO ORGANIZE AND STRATIFY THE SOMEWHAT LOOSE AND CONFUSED ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE PREFERRED BY RITCHIE. HITHERTO, DIRECTOR GENERAL (CORRESPONDING ROUGHLY TO ASSISTANT SECRETARIES IN DEPARTMENT) DEALT DIRECTLY WITH UNDERSECRETARY, WHILE ASSISTANT UNDERSECRETARIES (OF WHOM HALSTEAD WAS ONE) WERE GIVEN SOMEWHAT VAGUE AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY BETWEEN UNDERSECRETARY AND DIRECTOR GENERAL LEVELS. THIS RESULTED IN RITCHIE
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HAVING TO MAKE VIRTUALLY INTOLERABLE STRAIN.

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3. HALSTEAD IS 52, STUDIED AT UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH
COLUMBIA AND LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS. JOINED EXTERNAL
IN 1946, AND HAS SERVED IN TOKYO, NEW YORK, AND PARIS,
AS WELL AS IN OTTAWA AS DIRECTOR GENRAL FOR EUROPEAN
AFFAIRS AND ASSITANT UNDERSECRETARY. HE IS AN INTELLIGENT,
ARTICULATE AND ENGAGING PERSONALITY, WELL KNOWN TO US
OFFICIALS AND A GOOD FRIEND OF THE US AND OF THIS EMBASSY.
HIS WIFE, NEE JEAN GEMMILL, WAS BORN AND RAISED AN AMERICAN
IN SWARTHMORE, PA. THEY HAVE TWO CHILDREN, ONE OF WHOM IS A
SON AT SPECIAL SCHOOL ON CAPE COD FOR YOUTHS WITH
LEARNING PROBLEMS.
PORTER

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